

# Worship God as Sustainer

## Points to Consider

1. God sustains us by giving us life
2. God sustains us through His word
3. God sustains us through consistent cleansing

## God sustains us by giving us life and provisions

**Gen 14:22-24** *But Abram said to the king of Sodom, "I have raised my hand to the Lord, God Most High, the Possessor of heaven and earth, 23 that I will take nothing, from a thread to a sandal strap, and that I will not take anything that is yours, lest you should say, 'I have made Abram rich'."*

Abraham knew \_\_\_\_\_ was blessing and providing for him. He also wanted others to know that God is the sustainer of life.

**Isa 46:3-13** *"Listen to me, O house of Jacob, all you who remain of the house of Israel, you whom I have upheld since you were conceived, and have carried since your birth. 4 Even to your old age and gray hairs I am he, I am he who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you. 5 "To whom will you compare me or count me equal? To whom will you liken me that we may be compared? 6 Some pour out gold from their bags and weigh out silver on the scales; they hire a goldsmith to make it into a god, and they bow down and worship it. 7 They lift it to their shoulders and carry it; they set it up in its place, and there it stands. From that spot it cannot move. Though one cries out to it, it does not answer; it cannot save him from his troubles. 8 "Remember this, fix it in mind, take it to heart, you rebels. 9 Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me. 10 I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please. 11 From the east I summon a bird of prey; from a far-off land, a man to fulfill my purpose. What I have said, that will I bring about; what I have planned, that will I do. 12 Listen to me, you stubborn-hearted, you who are far from righteousness. 13 I am bringing my righteousness near, it is not far away; and my salvation will not be delayed. I will grant salvation to Zion, my splendor to Israel. NIV*

God told His people that even when they are old, He would be the one to \_\_\_\_\_ them and rescue them.

When we worship God as sustainer, we are recognizing our dependence upon Him for everything.

**Job 38:34-41; Job 39:1-4** God sustains the life of all the \_\_\_\_\_ on earth.

**Matt 5:44-46** - God is the \_\_\_\_\_ one who can make it rain. God told Job this as well.

**Col 1:15-17** *He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. NKJV*

**Heb 1:3** *He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. ESV*

The word 'consist' carries with it the idea that Christ \_\_\_\_\_ all things together.

He “upholds the universe” by the \_\_\_\_\_ of His power.

**Acts 17:23-28** *Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you: 24 God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. 25 Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, **since He gives to all life, breath, and all things.** 26 And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, 27 so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; 28 **for in Him we live and move and have our being,** as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.' NKJV*

Man does not need to worship God by making things for Him. He is the creator of **all**. We live and move and \_\_\_\_\_ because of Him.

## God sustains us through His word

**Rom 15:4-6** *For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. 5 Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, 6 that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. NKJV*

God's word comforts us and gives us \_\_\_\_\_.

**Ps 119:25** *My soul clings to the dust; **Revive me according to Your word.** 26 I have declared my ways, and You answered me; Teach me Your statutes. 27 Make me understand the way of Your precepts; So shall I meditate on Your wonderful works. 28 My soul melts from heaviness; **Strengthen me** according to Your word. 29 Remove from me the way of lying, And grant me Your law graciously. 30 I have chosen the way of truth; Your judgments I have laid before me. 31 I cling to Your testimonies; O Lord, do not put me to shame! 32 I will run the course of Your commandments, For You shall enlarge my heart.*

*33 Teach me, O Lord, the way of Your statutes, And I shall keep it to the end. 34 Give me understanding, and I shall keep Your law; Indeed, I shall observe it with my whole heart. 35 Make me walk in the path of Your commandments, For I delight in it. 36 Incline my heart to Your testimonies, And not to covetousness. 37 Turn away my eyes from looking at worthless things, And **revive me** in Your way. 38 Establish Your word to Your servant, Who is devoted to fearing You. 39 Turn away my reproach which I dread, For Your judgments are good. 40 Behold, I long for Your precepts; Revive me in Your righteousness.*

*41 Let Your mercies come also to me, O Lord — Your salvation according to Your word. 42 So shall I have an answer for him who reproaches me, For I trust in Your word. 43 And take not the word of truth utterly out of my mouth, For I have hoped in Your ordinances. 44 So shall I keep Your law continually, Forever and ever. 45 And I will walk at liberty, For I seek Your precepts. 46 I will speak of Your testimonies also before kings, And will not be ashamed. 47 And I will delight myself in Your commandments, Which I love. 48 My hands also I will lift up to Your commandments, Which I love, And I will meditate on Your statutes.*

*49 Remember the word to Your servant, Upon which You have **caused me to hope.** 50 This is my comfort in my affliction, **For Your word has given me life.** 51 The proud have me in great derision, Yet I do not turn aside from Your law. 52 I remembered Your judgments of old, O Lord, And have comforted myself. 53 Indignation has*

taken hold of me Because of the wicked, who forsake Your law. 54 Your statutes have been my songs In the house of my pilgrimage. 55 I remember Your name in the night, O Lord, And I keep Your law. 56 This has become mine, Because I kept Your precepts.

**Ps 119:103** *How sweet are Your words to my taste, Sweeter than honey to my mouth! 104 Through Your precepts I get understanding; Therefore I hate every false way. Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.* NKJV

The psalmist says that God's words are sweet like honey and a \_\_\_\_\_ to his feet.

**Jer 15:16** *Your words were found, and I ate them, And Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart; For I am called by Your name, O Lord God of hosts.* NKJV

**2 Tim 3:16-17** *All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.* NKJV

God's word makes us complete and equips us for every good work.

## God sustains us through consistent cleansing

**1 John 1:5** *This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. 6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. 8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.* NKJV

If we walk in the light, the blood of Jesus cleanses us from \_\_\_\_\_ sin.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us of our sins and cleanse us from all \_\_\_\_\_.

**2 Peter 3:10-13** *But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. 11 Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, 12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? 13 Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.* NKJV

When the Lord stops holding this world together it will \_\_\_\_\_ away. Are you ready?

### Practical Application

1. Meditate and thank God for sustaining our life every day.
2. Praise God for His word and thank Him for how His word sustains us.
3. If we need forgiveness, confess and ask God for forgiveness.

1. Share a time in your life when you thought you sustained your life through your own efforts (hard work, right time/right place, financial savvy, etc). How did this affect your worldview and attitude toward others? Toward God? Upon learning that life and provision for it are given by God, how has this changed your worldview and attitude towards others? Toward God?
2. Share a difficult point in your life where God sustained you through His word? Did this point mirror any of the struggles of a character in a Bible story? Is there a specific Bible verse that helped?
3. Share a time in your life when God's continual cleansing has renewed and sustained you and how that caused you to praise or worship Him.
4. In what ways can you apply the principles in this lesson to your life now and in the future?